

BENEFITS NEWS

An Information Publication for State of California Employees

2011 Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Awards State Merit Award Program



“What is a hero? Heroes are just regular people doing extraordinary deeds.”

These words are from 12 year old Anton Holm's winning essay read at the 2010 Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor award ceremony. Established in 1959, the Medal of Valor is the highest honor the State can bestow upon its employees for performing heroic acts of courage to save the life of another person. To date, 545 medals have been awarded to State employees.

Medal of Valor Awards

There are two types of awards:

The Special Act (Gold Medal) is given for an extraordinary act of heroism by a State employee extending far above and beyond the normal call of duty or service, performed at great risk to his or her own life in an effort to save human life.

The Special Service (Silver Medal) is given for an act of heroism by a State employee extending above and beyond the normal call of duty or service, performed at personal risk to his or her safety to save a human life or State property.

Last year 38 State employees were awarded Medals of Valor by the Governor for acts of heroism such as:

- Stopping a man from beating a young man at a DMV Office.
- Saving a woman who had been ejected from her car onto a Southern California freeway.
- Saving an 84 year old woman from a fire in Southern California.
- Rescuing a driver from a burning vehicle.
- Rescuing a Boy Scout whose leg became trapped by a boulder.
- Searching for a missing resident during a major fire.
- Maneuvering through live electrical wires to save a young boy.
- Rescuing a woman whose car went over an embankment.
- Extracting a downed officer from the line of fire.
- Descending a treacherous slope to save an accident victim.
- Rescuing victims and containing a fire after a traffic accident.

Nomination Process

Nominating a hero is simple. The process is:

- Each nomination is completed on a [DPA-012 Nomination Form](#) and submitted to your departmental Merit Award Administrator.

- The nomination package is reviewed for completeness by the Merit Award Administrator and submitted to your Department Director/Commissioner for signature and approval.
- Once approved by the Director/Commissioner, the nomination is forwarded to DPA's Merit Award Program by the Merit Award Administrator.
- All nominations are reviewed by DPA's Merit Award Board and Director on behalf of the Governor.
- Your Department is notified when the nomination is approved or denied.

While Medal of Valor nominations are accepted throughout the year, the deadline to be included in the next ceremony is **August 1, 2011**.

Additional Information

The complete nomination package containing information and samples may be accessed at:
<http://www.dpa.ca.gov/publications/medal-of-valor/nomination-package.pdf>.

For more information on these awards, contact your Merit Award Administrator or visit the Medal of Valor website:
<http://www.dpa.ca.gov/benefits/awards/medal-of-valor.htm>.

Information on past awardees may also be accessed online at:
www.medalofvalor.ca.gov.

“Many people misunderstand the word hero; they don’t realize that heroes live in their communities. Each and every one of them makes this world a better place for all of us” – Anton Holm

For More Information

DPA Benefits Division
 (916) 322-0300

Dental Program
 (916) 324-0866

Drug Testing Program
 (916) 324-9386

**Employee Assistance Program
 MHN (Managed Health Network)**
 1-866-327-4762

FlexElect Program
 (916) 327-6429

**Group Legal Services Plan
 ARAG®**
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 1-866-566-4777
www.sppforu.com

SDI/FMLA
 (916) 323-3343

State-Owned Housing Program
 (916) 327-1439

**Travel & Relocation and
 Vanpool Programs**
 (916) 324-0526

Vision Service Plan
 1-800-877-7195

**Workers' Compensation
 Program**
 (916) 445-9760

DPA Fax Numbers

Benefits Division
 (916) 322-3769

Savings Plus Program
 (916) 327-1885

Internet Address

www.dpa.ca.gov